



UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION - ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22
BACHELOR
Biotechnology (Class L-2)
enrolled from 2019/20 academic year

HEADING

Degree classification - Denomination and code:	L-2 Biotechnologies
Degree title:	Dottore
Curricula currently available:	Agrifood biotechnology / Comparative animal biotechnology / Pharmaceutical biotechnology / Molecular biotechnology and bioinformatics
Length of course:	3 years
Total number of credits required to complete programme:	180
Years of course currently available:	1st , 2nd , 3rd
Access procedures:	Cap on student, student selection based on entrance test
Course code:	K06

PERSONS/ROLES

Head of Interdepartmental Study Programme

Prof. Angelo Poletti

Tutors - Faculty

Tutor per l'orientamento
(gli studenti dovranno farvi riferimento in base al cognome)

A-B Dr. Fabio Forlani

C-D Prof. Fabio Luzi

E-F Prof.ssa Gabriella Tedeschi

H-L Prof. Paolo Landini

M-N Prof.ssa Elena Crotti

O-Q Prof.ssa Patrizia Limonta

R-S Prof. Maurizio Crestani

T-U Prof.ssa Maria Antonietta Vanoni

V-Z Prof. Luigi Sironi

Tutor per la mobilità internazionale e l'Erasmus

Dr. Fabio Forlani

Prof. Alessio Scarafoni

Tutor per i piani di studio

Prof.ssa Marina Camera

Prof.ssa Paola Casati

Prof. Federico Lazzaro

Dr.ssa Monica Panigati

Dr.ssa Lisa Vallone

Tutor per stage e tirocini

Prof.ssa Sara Borin

Prof.ssa Gabriella Consonni

Prof. Lucio Conti

Prof.ssa Mariarita Galbiati

Prof.ssa Gabriella Tedeschi

Tutor per trasferimenti/riconoscimento crediti

Prof. Alberto Alzati

Prof.ssa Marina Camera

Prof.ssa Paola Casati

Prof. Federico Lazzaro

Dr.ssa Monica Panigati

Dr.ssa Lisa Vallone

Tutor per laboratori e altre attività
Prof.ssa Raffaella Gandolfi
Dr.ssa Chiara Magni
Prof.ssa Paola Rusmini
Prof.ssa Gabriella Tedeschi

Degree Course website

<https://biotecnologia.cdl.unimi.it/it>

Via Celoria 2, Milano Phone 02503 16820 Ricevimento studenti: libero c/o palazzina ex DISMA, 1° piano

Email: alessio.scarafoni@unimi.it

Via Mangiagalli 25, Milano Phone 02503 19122 Ricevimento studenti: su appuntamento c/o DeFENS, via Mangiagalli 25, Milano - stanza 3023 Email: elena.crotti@unimi.it

Ricevimento studenti - Previo appuntamento c/o Segreteria Didattica Interdipartimentale Scienze del Farmaco e Biotecnologia, Via Golgi n. 19 Email: marina.camera@unimi.it

Via Celoria 18, Milano Phone 02503 25032 <https://www.unimi.it/it/node/360> <https://www.unimi.it/it/node/359>

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CHARACTERISTICS OF DEGREE PROGRAMME

General and specific learning objectives

The Degree Course in Biotechnology aims to provide bachelor students with solid basic knowledge and practical skills in the different fields of biotechnology, favoring interdisciplinary approaches and proposing the study of a range of modern molecular biotechnologies used in the agro-food, environmental, industrial, pharmaceutical and veterinary fields. Notions in bioethics, patenting and legislation, fundraising and management will be also provided. Innovation is the driving force of this course since in a sector in rapid and active development like this, continuous and efficient updating is necessary to keep pace with the rapid increase in scientific knowledge.

Expected learning outcomes

At the end of the three years course, the graduated students must achieve basic knowledge and understanding of mathematics, physics, chemistry, general biology, cellular and molecular biology of prokaryotic and eukaryotic organisms, genetics, microbiology and biochemistry, as well as some skills of management and bioethical aspects.

The acquisition of this basic knowledge allows, in the following three semesters, the deepening of skills specific for the agro-food biotechnology, comparative animal biotechnology, pharmaceutical and molecular bioinformatics biotechnology es. Therefore, methods and applications in the biotechnological field of prokaryotic and eukaryotic organisms, isolated cells and biological macromolecules with the integrated tools of cellular and molecular biology, biochemistry, bioinformatics, genetics and microbiology for the development and implementation of biotechnological methods and processes will be acquired.

The Biotechnology graduate will also acquire knowledge that will enable him to perform assistance and support functions for research and development in the various fields of biotechnology.

Professional profile and employment opportunities

The graduate in Biotechnology will be able to fit into numerous professional contexts including: the agri-food industry, the animal feed and plant production sector, the pharmaceutical industry, the chemical industry, the cosmetic industry and scientific information, the industry and services for environmental biotechnology, reproductive biotechnology laboratories, both in the medical and veterinary fields, biotechnological service centers for the applications of information technology to genomics and proteomics, universities and research laboratories of public and private institutions, certification bodies, structures of the National Health System. Health regulatory agencies and national and international agencies for patent regulations for the exploitation of biotechnological products, including study centers for toxicological and environmental detection are also open sectors for the biotechnologists.

The specific roles and professions of the graduate in Biotechnology, based on the nomenclature and classification drawn up by ISTAT (2012), are identified by the following codes:

- Biochemical laboratory technicians (3.2.2.3.1)
- Food technicians (3.2.2.2.2)
- Agronomist and forestry technicians (3.2.2.1)
- Veterinary laboratory technicians (3.2.2.3.3)
- Zootechnicians (3.2.2.)

The degree course allows you to qualify for the following regulated professions:

- Agricultural biotechnologist (Agri-food curriculum)
- Junior biologist
- Medical-scientific informant (Pharmaceutical curriculum)

Notes

In order to get their degree, students are required to certify their knowledge of the English language at the B1 level. This level can be certified in one of the following ways:

· By submitting their language certificate, taken no more than 3 years before its submittal and attesting a B1 or higher level (for the list of the language certificates which are accepted by the University of Milan, please refer to the website: <https://www.unimi.it/en/node/297/>). Students can submit their language certificate during the immatriculation procedure.

· By sitting the placement test run by SLAM, during the first year exclusively, from September to December. Should they not pass the Placement Test, students will have to attend the English language course organized by SLAM. All students who do not have a valid language certificate must sit the Placement Test. Those students who do not sit the Placement test by December or do not pass the end of course test in one of the 6 attempts granted will have to get a language certificate outside the University of Milan within their degree.

EXPERIENCE OF STUDY ABROAD AS PART OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

The University of Milan supports international mobility by providing its students with the opportunity to spend study and internship periods abroad. It is a unique chance to enrich your educational path in a new exciting environment.

The agreements entered into by the University with over 300 universities from the 27 EU member countries and other Extra-EU countries under the European Erasmus+ programme allow regularly enrolled students to carry out part of their studies at one of the partner universities or to undertake internships at companies, training and research centres and other organizations.

Similar international mobility opportunities are provided outside Europe, through agreements with a number of prestigious institutions.

Study and internships abroad

The study opportunities within the ERASMUS + Program, the specific participation rules and the selection criteria for students are described in the announcements that the University generally publishes in January, and are illustrated during specific meetings advertised on the Degree Course and the University websites. Agreements have been signed with several universities, distributed throughout Europe (for a total of 13 countries), mainly in Spain, Germany, France, Holland, Belgium and the United Kingdom, selected on the basis of didactic and scientific relevance.

The aim of mobility is to carry out training activities abroad to replace a part of your study plan, including the internship. Thus, all the activities that can be carried out abroad should be related to the topics and areas of study covered by the curricula on which the Degree Course is structured.

The planning of the study program (Learning Agreement, LA) must be prepared in collaboration with the Erasmus Coordinator, both for the choice of exams and the organization of traineeships. The program must include activities for a number of ECTS proportional to the length of the stay, in accordance with the general rules of the University of Milan.

To carry out any experimental activity that will be the whole internship, or part of it, both an acceptance letter from the hosting lab and from an internal teacher who will act as tutor and / or supervisor (Relatore) are required. These letters must be sent to the ERASMUS Manager at the time of writing the LA.

All activities will be validated in the student's career, as long as they are completed with positive results (achievement of at least 70% of the credits planned by the LA) and certified by the host university at the end of the student's stay. The Interdepartmental Teaching Board will decide on the recognition of the credits and marks of the exams taken on the basis of a predefined conversion scale.

In addition, the participation to the Erasmus + programs will be taken into account in the final definition of the graduation mark, in accordance to the extension and quality of the period spent abroad.

How to participate in Erasmus mobility programs

The students of the University of Milan can participate in mobility programmes, through a public selection procedure.

Ad hoc commissions will evaluate:

- Academic career
- the candidate's proposed study programme abroad
- his/her foreign language proficiency
- the reasons behind his/her application

Call for applications and informative meetings

The public selection generally begins around February each year with the publication of a call for applications specifying the destinations, with the respective programme duration (from 2/3 to 12 months), requirements and online application deadline.

Every year, before the deadline for the call, the University organizes informative meetings to illustrate opportunities and rules for participation to students.

Erasmus+ scholarship

The European Union grants the winners of the Erasmus+ programme selection a scholarship to contribute to their mobility costs, which is supplemented by the University funding for disadvantaged students.

Language courses

Students who pass the selections for mobility programmes can benefit from intensive foreign language courses offered each year by the University.

Learn more at <https://www.unimi.it/en/international/study-abroad/studying-abroad-erasmus>

For assistance, please contact:

International Mobility Office

Via Santa Sofia 9 (second floor)

Tel. 02 503 13501-12589-13495-13502

Contacts: InformaStudenti mobility.out@unimi.it

Student Desk booking through InformaStudenti

1st COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities common to all curricula		
Learning activity	Ects	Sector
	8	(8) AGR/07, (8) BIO/18
English assessment B1 (1 ECTS)	1	ND
General and inorganic chemistry	8	CHIM/03
General e Cellular Biology	10	BIO/13
Genetics	8	(8) AGR/07, (8) BIO/18
Informatics and Statistics for Biotechnologies (common)	6	(6) MAT/09, (6) FIS/08, (6) MAT/01, (6) FIS/07, (6) MAT/02, (6) FIS/06, (6) MAT/03, (6) FIS/05, (6) MAT/04, (6) MAT/05, (6) FIS/04, (6) MAT/06, (6) FIS/03, (6) FIS/02, (6) MAT/07, (6) FIS/01, (6) MAT/08, (6) SECS-S/02, (6) SECS-S/01, (6) INF/01
Mathematics for Biotechnology	6	(6) MAT/09, (6) MAT/01, (6) MAT/02, (6) MAT/03, (6) MAT/04, (6) MAT/05, (6) MAT/06, (6) MAT/07, (6) MAT/08
Organic chemistry	8	CHIM/06
Physics	6	(6) FIS/08, (6) FIS/07, (6) FIS/06, (6) FIS/05, (6) FIS/04, (6) FIS/03, (6) FIS/02, (6) FIS/01
	Total compulsory credits	61
2nd COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities common to all curricula		
Learning activity	Ects	Sector
Biochemistry	9	BIO/10
Fundamentals of economy and Bioethics	6	(6) MED/02, (6) SECS-P/06, (6) IUS/01, (6) AGR/01, (6) IUS/04
General Microbiology	9	BIO/19
Molecular Biology	9	BIO/11
	Total compulsory credits	33
Further elective courses common to all curricula		
End of course requirements common to all curricula		
FINAL EXAM	5	ND
Lab training	8	ND
	Total compulsory credits	13

ACTIVE CURRICULA LIST

Agri-food biotechnology Course years currently available: 1°, 2°, 3°

Comparative animal biotechnology Course years currently available: 1°, 2°, 3°

Pharmaceutical biotechnology Course years currently available: 1°, 2°, 3°

Procedure for choosing a curriculum

The normal duration of the degree course in Biotechnology is three years.

The course is structured in six semesters, during which different types of didactic activities are foreseen for a total of 180 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System), organized in lectures, exercises, practical activities, laboratories, seminars, internship.

A formative credit (ECTS) corresponds to a standard load of 25 hours of activity for the student and is divided as follows:

- 8 hours of theoretical lesson and 17 hours of personal reworking;
- 16 hours of laboratory or training and 9 hours of personal reworking;
- 25 hours of internship and training activities related to the preparation of the final exam - 25 hours of individual study.

The course is divided into a common period, lasting three semesters, in which students acquire the basic molecular, cellular and methodological skills essential for further study. In the following three semesters, the student will be able to choose one of the following curricula to deepen some of their own and professionalising aspects of biotechnology:

- Agri-food curriculum
- Comparative animal biotechnology curriculum
- Pharmaceutical curriculum
- Molecular-bioinformatics curriculum

The choice of curriculum will be formalized with the presentation of the study plan at the end of the first semester of the second year. After that, the student will have the possibility to change the curriculum upon presentation of a motivated request to the Interdepartmental Didactic Board.

Each curriculum has the objective of offering students the opportunity to acquire skills and improve in the areas of Biotechnology that best meet their interests, as specified in the following paragraphs.

CURRICULUM: [K06-E] Agrifood biotechnology**Qualifying Training Objectives**

The aim of the curriculum is to prepare experts who have basic knowledge in plant and microbial systems interpreted in a molecular and cellular key.

Skills acquired

Graduates will have a detailed knowledge of physiology, biochemistry, genetics and molecular biology, related to development and reproduction of food and non-food crops.

The training will also include skills related to crop genetic improvement; sustainability in agricultural practices; phytopathology; transformation processes to obtain non-food plant products. Particular attention will be paid to the use of molecular techniques in plant and food production, with an emphasis on crop propagation, cultivation, protection, and genetic improvement.

Professional profile and employment possibilities

The agri-food curriculum provides the type of credits necessary to access the profession of agricultural biotechnologist. The agricultural plant biotechnologist will be able to find employment in the following:

- public and private research institutions (MIUR, MIPAF, Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Environment etc.) committed to the development of innovative crops having specific characteristics and reduced environmental impact;
- ARPA and private laboratories that perform GMOs detection in agro-food chains and in the environment;
- plant variety certification centers;
- industrial sectors for the reproduction of food and non-food plants (nursery gardening);
- industrial production of biofertilizers and plant inoculant symbiotic bacteria
- industrial production of high-value plant-based molecules (proteins, vitamins, drugs) and pesticides;
- public and private agencies for phytosanitary control and plant protection;
- public and private centers for environmental remediation and conservation;
- international cooperation

2nd COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities Curriculum-specific features Agrifood biotechnology

Learning activity	Ects	Sector
Applied molecular biotechnologies	11	BIO/10
Botany and cropping systems	9	(9) AGR/02, (9) BIO/01, (9) AGR/04
Chemistry and Biochemistry of Agri-Food Molecules	8	(8) BIO/10, (8) CHIM/06
Plant physiology and biochemistry	7	AGR/13
	Total compulsory credits	35

3rd COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities Curriculum-specific features Agrifood biotechnology

Learning activity	Ects	Sector
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Biotechnology for plant protection	10	(10) AGR/11, (10) AGR/12
Careers in biotechnology	2	ND
In vitro plant breeding	5	AGR/03
Microbial agrobiotechnology	6	AGR/16
Plant genomics and breeding	11	AGR/07
Total compulsory credits		34

CURRICULUM: [K06-F] Comparative animal biotechnology

Qualifying Training Objectives

The comparative animal biotechnology curriculum aims at training graduates with theoretical and practical skills in the main fields of biotechnology applied to cells, tissues and animal organisms.

Skills acquired

Learning of molecular and cell culture techniques, manipulation and cryopreservation of gametes and embryos of domestic animals and bioinformatics skills applied to the analysis of biological data, acquisition of knowledge of regulatory and bioethical aspects and related to the fields of interest of biotechnology. Students will also acquire techniques related to the development of animal models and in vitro models; principles and approaches of cell therapy and regeneration; cell biology methods such as 2D and 3D cultures and isolation and characterization of stem cells.

Professional profile and employment possibilities

The curriculum provides professional skills required to find employment:

- in public and private scientific research bodies;
- in public and private analytical laboratories;
- in public and private technological development laboratories;
- in pharmaceutical, food and feed industrial sectors;
- in international cooperation institutions.

2nd COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities Curriculum-specific features Comparative animal biotechnology		
Learning activity	Ects	Sector
Animal physiology and assisted reproduction	9	(9) VET/10, (9) VET/02
Comparative and laboratory animal pathology	7	VET/03
Development, morphology and function of organs and systems	8	VET/01
Veterinary microbiology and immunology	6	VET/05
Total compulsory credits		30
3rd COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities Curriculum-specific features Comparative animal biotechnology		
Learning activity	Ects	Sector
Biotechnology applied to animal nutrition and animal origin food	12	(6) AGR/18, (6) VET/04
Infectious and parasitic diseases	10	(10) VET/06, (10) VET/05
Molecular genetics and animal models	8	(8) AGR/17, (8) AGR/20
Veterinary pharmacology and biotechnology law	9	(9) VET/07, (9) VET/08
Total compulsory credits		39

CURRICULUM: [K06-G] Pharmaceutical biotechnology

Qualifying Training Objectives

The pharmaceutical curriculum is intended to train graduates to acquire specific knowledges in the methodologies useful to design, produce, test and develop biotechnological drugs, as well as in the information and clinical monitoring of biotechnological drugs.

Skills acquired

Graduates will be able to acquire operational and application skills that allow them to perform: biotechnological analysis and experimentation, production of biotechnological drugs, construction of vectors and engineered systems for the production of drugs, screening of drugs and biotechnological products, research on databases, technical coordination of research groups, development of biotechnological systems for toxicological studies related to drugs and environmental contamination.

Professional profile and employment possibilities

The pharmaceutical curriculum will prepare students for professional activities that involve the development and use of diagnostic tests, quality control in biotechnological industries, the use of biotechnological techniques in biomedical research as well as clinical monitoring of biotechnological drugs, specific skills in the patenting of biotechnological products. The pharmaceutical curriculum prepares for industrial marketing and provides the type of credits needed to access the profession of "medical-scientific informant "

2nd COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities Curriculum-specific features Pharmaceutical biotechnology		
Learning activity	Ects	Sector
ANALYTICAL METHODS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL BIOTECHNOLOGIES	7	(7) CHIM/01, (7) CHIM/08
Human physiology and basic anatomy	10	BIO/09
Methods in Cell Biology and Biochemistry	7	(0) BIO/10, (0) BIO/13
Pharmacology	8	BIO/14
	Total compulsory credits	32
3rd COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities Curriculum-specific features Pharmaceutical biotechnology		
Learning activity	Ects	Sector
Generale Pathology, Immunology and Medical Microbiology	11	(11) MED/04, (11) MED/07
Medicinal Chemistry and Bioprocesses	10	(10) CHIM/11, (10) CHIM/08
Pharmaceutical Technology and Legislation of Biotechnological Medicinal Products	6	CHIM/09
Pharmacological and toxicological biotechnology	10	BIO/14
	Total compulsory credits	37

CURRICULUM: [K06-H] Molecular biotechnology and bioinformatics

Qualifying Training Objectives

The molecular-bioinformatics curriculum aims at providing detailed knowledge on the biotechnological use of eukaryotic and prokaryotic organisms, cells and biological macromolecules (proteins, both natural and engineered nucleic acids) for the development and improvement of processes and products for the chemical, pharmaceutical, diagnostic, food, personal care fields.

Skills acquired

The student will acquire all the basic tools and knowledge needed in biotechnological research groups, biomedical research support services as well as the field of technical-scientific dissemination and marketing.

Professional profile and employment possibilities

Specific employment opportunities for the molecular-bioinformatics curriculum include junior level positions in research laboratories or biotechnology companies, in particular in big data management for biological and biotechnological data. Students will attend orientation activities, such as meetings and seminars of experts in the various sectors of industrial biotechnology.

2nd COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities Curriculum-specific features Molecular biotechnology and bioinformatics		
Learning activity	Ects	Sector
Animal cell biotechnology	6	(6) BIO/17, (6) BIO/13
Chemical methods for biotechnology	8	(8) CHIM/02, (8) CHIM/06
Fermentation Biotechnology	6	(6) BIO/11, (6) CHIM/11, (6) BIO/18
Plant Biology and Physiology	8	(8) BIO/18, (8) BIO/01, (8) BIO/04
	Total compulsory credits	28
3rd COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities Curriculum-specific features Molecular biotechnology and bioinformatics		
Learning activity	Ects	Sector
Biochemistry and molecular biology: applications in biotechnology	12	(12) BIO/11, (12) BIO/10
Bioinformatics and Computational biology	12	(6) BIO/11, (6) BIO/10, (12) INF/01
Careers in biotechnology	2	ND
Microbial biotechnology	6	(6) BIO/19, (6) BIO/18
Plant industrial biotechnology	9	(9) AGR/07, (9) BIO/18
	Total compulsory credits	41

COURSE PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

The students have to successfully complete the propaedeutic exams listed in column 1, before those listed in column 2 of the following table.

In the event that the list of propaedeutic exams changes, the students will have to comply with the list approved in the previous Academic Year

Learning activity	Prescribed foundation courses	O/S
Biochemistry	General and inorganic chemistry	Recommended
	General e Cellular Biology	Recommended
	Physics	Recommended
	Organic chemistry	Recommended
	Genetics	Recommended
Molecular Biology	Biochemistry	Recommended
	Genetics	Recommended
Plant Biology and Physiology	General and inorganic chemistry	Core/compulsory
	General e Cellular Biology	Core/compulsory
	Organic chemistry	Recommended
	Genetics	Recommended
Fermentation Biotechnology	Biochemistry	Recommended
	General Microbiology	Recommended
Biochemistry and molecular biology: applications in biotechnology	Biochemistry	Recommended
	Molecular Biology	Recommended
	General and inorganic chemistry	Recommended
	Genetics	Recommended
Plant industrial biotechnology	Genetics	Recommended
Microbial biotechnology	General Microbiology	Recommended
Molecular genetics and animal models	Genetics	Core/compulsory
Pharmaceutical Technology and Legislation of Biotechnological Medicinal Products	Pharmacology	Core/compulsory
	General and inorganic chemistry	Core/compulsory
	Organic chemistry	Core/compulsory
ANALYTICAL METHODS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL BIOTECHNOLOGIES	Biochemistry	Core/compulsory
	General and inorganic chemistry	Core/compulsory
	Physics	Core/compulsory
	Organic chemistry	Core/compulsory
Pharmacological and toxicological biotechnology	Biochemistry	Core/compulsory
	Pharmacology	Core/compulsory
	Human physiology and basic anatomy	Core/compulsory
Pharmacology	General e Cellular Biology	Core/compulsory
Medicinal Chemistry and Bioprocesses	Biochemistry	Core/compulsory
	General and inorganic chemistry	Core/compulsory
	Organic chemistry	Core/compulsory
Human physiology and basic anatomy	General e Cellular Biology	Core/compulsory
	Physics	Recommended
Microbial agrobiotechnology	Biochemistry	Recommended
	Molecular Biology	Recommended
	General Microbiology	Core/compulsory
Applied molecular biotechnologies	Biochemistry	Recommended
Informatics and Statistics for Biotechnologies (common)	Mathematics for Biotechnology	Core/compulsory
Methods in Cell Biology and Biochemistry	Biochemistry	Recommended
	Molecular Biology	Recommended
	General e Cellular Biology	Recommended
Organic chemistry	General and inorganic chemistry	Core/compulsory
Generale Pathology, Immunology and Medical Microbiology	Biochemistry	Core/compulsory
	Human physiology and basic anatomy	Core/compulsory
	General Microbiology	Core/compulsory